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1 MR. SNOOK: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: That's all you have?

3 MR. SNOOK: And Mr. Williams, is this
4 your pre-filed testimony dated March 28, 2002?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, it is.

6 MR. SNOOK: Do you have any corrections
7 to this testimony?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I do.

9 MR. SNOOK: And what would that be?

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Under Item 3 where it
11 says although negotiations between the shellfish
12 interests, that should be negotiations.

13 MR. SNOOK: Do you have any other
14 corrections?

15 MR. WILLIAMS: No

16 MS. KATZ: Would you mind --

17 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Mr. Williams, if
18 you'd keep your voice up --

19 MS. KATZ: Yeah.

20 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: -- we'd appreciate
21 it.

22 MR. WILLIAMS: No, no more corrections.

23 MR. SNOOK: Thank you. With that
24 correction is this, your pre-filed testimony, true and

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1 correct to the best of your knowledge and belief today
2 as of the day you filed it?

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

4 MR. SNOOK: I would therefore -- do you
5 adopt this as your testimony today, Mr. Williams?

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I do.

7 MR. SNOOK: Under oath, Mr. Williams?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

9 MR. SNOOK: I would, therefore, offer
10 this as a full exhibit.

11 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Any objection it
12 being offered as a full exhibit? (No audible reply).
13 So entered in the record.

14 (Whereupon, Attorney General Blumenthal
15 Exhibit No. 1 was received into evidence as a full
16 exhibit.

17 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: You ready for cross-
18 examination, Mr. Snook?

19 MR. SNOOK: Yes. I offer this witness
20 for cross-examination, Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Mr. Fitzgerald.

22 MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you, Mr.
23 Chairman. Good morning, Mr. Williams.

24 In your response to numbered Question 3,

1 you say that the consequences of the installation of
2 the Iroquois pipeline were serious and wider in scope
3 than anyone imagined. And then you go on to list two
4 respects in which these impacts were wider than
5 anticipated. The first thing you say is the
6 installation barge exceeded the installation corridor
7 by dropping its anchors well outside of it. What are
8 you referring to there as the installation corridor?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Fitzgerald, the
10 installation corridor on the Iroquois project turned
11 out to be a little bit confusing in that it turned out
12 that apparently Iroquois negotiated --

13 MR. FITZGERALD: Mr. Williams --

14 MR. WILLIAMS: -- a construction
15 corridor that was 300 feet wide with a subcontractor.
16 However, a 200-foot wide corridor apparently was
17 negotiated with the shellfish company.

18 MR. FITZGERALD: Alright, so -- so then
19 the area that you are referring to here, whether it's
20 200 feet or 300 feet, as the corridor is the area
21 approximate to the trench where the pipeline was being
22 installed, either 100 or 200 feet on either side of the
23 pipeline, is that right?

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I believe from the

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1 centerline of the pipeline out --

2 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay --

3 MR. WILLIAMS: -- that's correct.

4 MR. FITZGERALD: -- and you say that it
5 was not anticipated that anchors would be dropped
6 outside of that corridor? Is that your testimony here?

7 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm not saying it was not
8 anticipating. I'm saying what's in the statement, that
9 the anchors were dropped outside of the construction
10 corridor.

11 MR. FITZGERALD: More than 100 or 200 --
12 and more than 200 feet from the vessel?

13 MR. WILLIAMS: That's correct.

14 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. And have you --
15 I'm sure you've reviewed the filings that are made --
16 that have been made in this case. Do you have any
17 reason to believe that the anchor spread has not been
18 accurately shown on the documents that have been
19 submitted in this case?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Your question is do I
21 have any reason to believe that the anchor spread is
22 not accurate?

23 MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah, have -- well, let
24 me ask you first of all, have you -- have you reviewed

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1 any documents filed in this case that show the anchor
2 spread that is anticipated for the construction
3 vessels?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: I have seen a document
5 somewhere in my paperwork here that apparently
6 described the anchor spread on the Islander East
7 project, yes.

8 MR. FITZGERALD: And did it show that
9 the anchor spread was more than a hundred feet from the
10 pipeline?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, it did.

12 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. The -- on the
13 next page you talk about the turbidity related to the
14 installation of the Iroquois pipeline which was due in
15 part to the attempts to restore the bottom to
16 preconstruction profile?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: That's correct.

18 MR. FITZGERALD: Would you -- do you
19 know what those attempts consisted of?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I do.

21 MR. FITZGERALD: Would you describe that
22 please?

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. After the
24 installation of the pipeline and the backfilling of the

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trench, we observed a tugboat with a rather large I-beam that was employed for basically the smoothing out of the topography of the area, to smooth out the high spots in an attempt to, as I understand it based on the meetings that I attended, to bring the bottom back to preconstruction profile and to assist in filling in any voids in the trench as I understand the operation this time.

MR. FITZGERALD: This was a very large steel beam that was being dragged across perpendicular to the right-of-way by a tug and then being -- which would then make a turn and come back the other way and cross the right-of-way again --

MR. WILLIAMS: Roughly speaking, that's correct.

MR. FITZGERALD: And so given the size of the equipment, that tug and the beam affected the bottom for a distance that was considerably beyond the initially disturbed area, is that right?

MR. WILLIAMS: I would have a problem with that statement, sir.

MR. FITZGERALD: Well, it was the -- was the beam dragged over an area --

MR. TAIT: How long was the beam?

1 MR. WILLIAMS: I can only estimate the
2 length of the beam.

3 MR. TAIT: Would you try to do so?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: I would estimate it to be
5 between 30 and 40 feet long.

6 MR. FITZGERALD: And do you know whether
7 or not that work was done because it was specified in
8 the permit condition?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: I wouldn't be able to
10 answer that.

11 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. Would you
12 suggest that permit conditions issued to Islander East
13 not include a specification for dragging a steel I-beam
14 back and forth across the trench area?

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Based on my experience
16 with the consequences of doing that, I would strongly
17 suggest against it.

18 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. In the last
19 paragraph of your answer in response to Question 3, you
20 state that you observed holes and irregular features
21 along the installation corridor on your video depth
22 sounder. And I'm sure you probably remember that for
23 part of its length the Iroquois pipeline was installed
24 using mechanical dredging and then for part of its

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1 length it was installed using a hydraulic jet. Is that
2 consistent with your recollection?

3 MR. WILLIAMS: The jet part of it I
4 believe was done offshore and apparently it was done
5 outside of the area that I was involved with.

6 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay, so -- so your --
7 your statements here are just referring to the in-shore
8 part of --

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, my statements are
10 focused on what I would as a shell fisherman call the
11 600 lots which are east of Charles Island in Milford at
12 the time I had permission to be there.

13 MR. FITZGERALD: Now, do you know
14 whether or not a side-scan sonar survey of the entire
15 trench, including the near-shore area of the trench
16 through the shellfish beds, was ever done post-
17 construction?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Sir, I believe so, yes.

19 MR. FITZGERALD: And have you reviewed
20 the information in that survey to see what it shows
21 about the contours of the bottom?

22 MR. WILLIAMS: The contours of the
23 bottom?

24 MR. FITZGERALD: Yeah. Well, I mean you

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1 -- you mentioned here that on your video depth sounder
2 you were able to see some holes and irregular features?

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, that's correct.

4 MR. FITZGERALD: And these kinds of
5 features --

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay --

7 MR. FITZGERALD: -- would also be --

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah --

9 MR. FITZGERALD: -- shown up on a sonar
10 survey taken for the purpose of identifying --

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes --

12 MR. FITZGERALD: -- what the bathymetry
13 was, wouldn't it --

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, that's correct.

15 MR. FITZGERALD: And so -- I mean you've
16 got some anecdotal observations here and I just -- I
17 wondered whether you had reviewed the more --

18 MR. SNOOK: I object to the use of the
19 term anecdotal. I believe they are actual observations
20 --

21 MR. FITZGERALD: Well --

22 MR. SNOOK: -- unless you're referring
23 to your own.

24 MR. FITZGERALD: No, I'm using it in

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1 contrast to systematic, but we don't need to argue
2 about -- I'm -- the question is just whether you've
3 reviewed the results of a post-construction side-scan
4 sonar survey?

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Sir, the results, as I
6 understand them, were presented to representatives of
7 the shellfish industry along with other regulatory
8 people at a meeting that I attended in early 1992. The
9 results of the side-scan sonar was projected on a map
10 and was provided to the meeting by company
11 representatives.

12 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay -- well, I'm sure
13 you're correct, but there is also on file with the
14 Siting Council a survey filed on December 5th of 2000,
15 have you seen that one?

16 MR. WILLIAMS: No.

17 MR. FITZGERALD: Okay.

18 MR. SNOOK: If the Council pleases, we
19 have that map that Mr. Williams is discussing. I'm not
20 sure the Council has asked for it or if the Applicant
21 has. I have not offered it as an exhibit, but it is
22 available.

23 MR. FITZGERALD: In response to numbered
24 Question 4, you say in the second paragraph it appears

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1 that few or no studies are being proposed by regulatory
2 agencies to determine preconstruction conditions of
3 habitat, organisms population, surveys of organisms
4 which may be affected, post-construction conditions,
5 mitigation, and long-term monitoring of the site.
6 Would you suggest that if the Siting Council were to
7 require a development and management plan with respect
8 to this proposal that they include in it a condition
9 requiring pre and post-construction surveys to
10 characterize the habitat and benthic community
11 populations in the area of the proposed construction?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I would -- I would
13 definitely recommend that. And from some of the
14 testimony that I've heard and some of the information
15 that I have read, apparently there are some efforts to
16 do that. I believe that, from what I've read and from
17 some of the testimony that I've heard, unfortunately a
18 lot of the type of real science that goes into looking
19 at these communities takes time. And personally as a
20 shell fisherman, I'm aware of how long it takes to
21 study the natural forces and the natural biology. But
22 that is my concern in that the process is accelerated
23 and maybe a longer term approach to studying the
24 effects should be considered.

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1 MR. FITZGERALD: Thank you. I have no
2 further questions.

3 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Thank you. Rebecca
4 Mars? (No audible reply). Branford Land Trust.

5 MR. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 For the record, William Horne for the Branford Land
7 Trust.

8 Mr. William, how would you characterize
9 both the current and the potential commercial shellfish
10 -- or current and potential value of the commercial
11 shellfish habitat in the area delimited by Branford
12 Harbor on the west, the Thimble Islands on the east,
13 and North West Reef on the south?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: This particular area has
15 been -- first of all from a historical standpoint, the
16 Thimble Island area has been essential for an oystery
17 fishery for over a hundred years. That's fairly well
18 documented. There are a great many oyster beds in the
19 immediate area that have been very important to the
20 shellfish industry for quite some time as I said. Some
21 of the ground is both used also for clams and oysters.
22 Sometimes you can get two crops on one piece of ground,
23 sometimes you get one or the other, but it is a very
24 important area. It always has been and hopefully it

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1 always will be.

2 MR. HORNE: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: I believe Mr. Horne
4 asked you what the financial impact was?

5 MR. HORNE: Well, I -- thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman. I was -- I was not asking for a specific
7 financial value. I was asking for an estimate of
8 whether they were valuable beds or -- I think -- I
9 think the Applicant in some of their filings have
10 indicated that areas are not useful for shellfish and
11 that -- I apologize if my question was inappropriately
12 vague.

13 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Valuable to --
14 (indiscernible) -- the amount of money.

15 MR. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
16 certainly would not object if Mr. Williams cared to
17 offer an opinion on that, but counsel for the Applicant
18 might object.

19 MR. FITZGERALD: I might. (Laughter).

20 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Well, let's find out
21 whether you might object.

22 MR. FITZGERALD: Well, I mean I don't --
23 right now we don't have -- there's been no foundation
24 that would suggest that he is able to express an

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1 opinion concerning the monetary value of resources that
2 are there or -- and so, therefore, I would object right
3 now --

4 MR. TAIT: Mr. Horne, I think you've
5 made your point with that question anyway.

6 MR. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Tait.

7 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Yeah but, Mr. Horne,
8 before you go any farther, he just filed his income tax
9 on April 15th -- (laughter) -- and he should know how
10 much money he made --

11 MR. FITZGERALD: But that --

12 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: -- as a shell
13 fisherman.

14 MR. FITZGERALD: But that wasn't the
15 question. The -- and I don't -- I don't think anybody
16 wants to ask him that question.

17 MR. HORNE: It's my understanding that
18 the Council could ask any question it wants at anytime.
19 Am I incorrect?

20 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Mr. Snook, you have
21 objections?

22 MR. SNOOK: Actually, no. The witness
23 is prepared to offer his evidence as to what in a sense
24 the financial affect -- at least on some of his leases

1 that he has worked in this area have been.

2 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Yes and then we'll
3 get into the question how much it's going to affect --
4 Islander East is going to affect it and we'll probably
5 go far away from where we really want to go, so I will
6 take Mr. Tait's advice and -- we found out what we
7 wanted to know. (Laughter). Go ahead, Mr. Horne.

8 MR. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Gelston. The
9 Applicant has gone to some length to distinguish
10 between active leases and undesignated lease areas in
11 terms of where their activities will occur. Do you
12 know of your own knowledge why the areas that are
13 listed as undesignated lease areas are so listed?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: At the current time the
15 undesignated areas north of the jurisdiction line
16 within the Town of Branford jurisdiction are currently
17 undesignated primarily because there was a number of
18 years there where we didn't have too much of a rapport
19 with the Shell Fish Commission and they really didn't
20 know what to do with the ground. There were numerous
21 applications and we went to meetings to lease a lot of
22 this ground to cultivate the ground because we knew
23 what the value was through traditional cultivation
24 methods. All of it, all of it is extremely productive.

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1 And that's -- there's really no reason why they should
2 not have leased it. There was apparently one concern,
3 as a shell fisherman and I have to validate this for
4 the town, that they wanted to hold it for the use of
5 the town's people, and I believe at the time -- or at
6 the current time there's a program now through
7 increased water quality monitoring to open up sections
8 of the bottom to town people.

9 MR. SNOOK: Before I run afoul of having
10 my witness provide evidence that is actually
11 contradictory to a position of the Attorney General
12 with respect to the Town of Greenwich's beaches --
13 (laughter) -- maybe we could move to the other areas --

14 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) -- I was
15 wondering --

16 A VOICE: I caught Mr. Snook's eye and
17 he took -- he quickly got the hint.

18 (Overlap of voices, indiscernible).

19 MR. HORNE: Moving offshore, are there
20 areas in the State lease that are undesignated or not
21 leased? And if so, are there reasons why those are not
22 leased?

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Currently, there's areas
24 south of -- south of the jurisdiction line within State

1 jurisdiction that there is interest within the
2 shellfish community to lease the bottom. However, at
3 the institute of -- well, at the implementation of the
4 notice of this project, the State Shellfish
5 Commissioner puts a ban on any future leasing to slow
6 down any speculation in the area because that's
7 apparently a concern. However, yes, there are -- there
8 are resources out there that are of a concern to the
9 shellfish industry as we speak.

10 MR. HORNE: Thank you. And not to put
11 words in your mouth, but I would take it from your
12 response is that you would bid on these beds if they
13 were available for lease?

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, absolutely.
15 Absolutely, yes. I've been out there before and -- in
16 fact, I lost a bid on one piece of ground out there,
17 and I'd certainly be active in bidding on it again.

18 MR. HORNE: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: (Indiscernible) --
20 reasons or speculative reasons?

21 A VOICE: That was a question --

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Oh, it was --

23 A VOICE: Certainly.

24 MR. WILLIAMS: I will answer that, sir -

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1 - with all due respect, that cuts to the heart of the
2 way I think about things, and -- and I will answer that
3 question -- I believe that speculation in ground is the
4 most abhorrent counterproductive, against the entire
5 intent and spirit of the statutes and Connecticut's
6 program for the management and the shellfish program
7 over its public trust lands. And as a shell fisherman
8 for over 30 years, I think it's the wrong thing to do.
9 It's not shellfishing, it's speculation. We lease
10 these pieces of bottom for the cultivation of
11 shellfish. When I got into this business, I was
12 brought up the hard way from the bottom up, and that's
13 all I know. And I know there are people out there that
14 would love to do that for reasons other than the
15 cultivation of shellfish, and it's wrong. And that's
16 the only way I can answer that, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Thank you.

18 MR. HORNE: Based on your experience in
19 Milford, what effect would anchor or spud holes have on
20 the ability to cultivate shellfish beds?

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Anchors or spud holes or
22 any type of depression in the bottom of cultivable
23 shellfish beds represents a real obstacle. They
24 represent an area that slowly fills in with apparently

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1 fine grain material based on my experience. They also
2 represent a hazard in that -- and again based on my
3 experience, when one of our dredges drops into one of
4 those holes, they're very often go to -- migrate to the
5 other side because of travel of the boat, the dredge
6 grabs the other side of the bottom of the hole and then
7 everything goes tight, and in several instances I've
8 actually parted the tow line to a clam dredge. So they
9 represent obstacles that you have to avoid. And based
10 on my experience, we've never been able to cultivate
11 shellfish in these areas after they've been created.

12 MR. HORNE: During the construction of
13 the Iroquois pipeline were there spoil mounds or berms
14 of the type that have been described that would be
15 constructed in Branford between mile post say 10.9 and
16 12?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, there were.

18 MR. HORNE: Were you -- did you observe
19 an effect of storm action on the erosion of those
20 berms?

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I did.

22 MR. HORNE: Could you tell us about what
23 the effect was?

24 MR. WILLIAMS: The effect of some of the

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1 weather events was a wider dispersal of the sediment
2 plume that we had observed on a day-to-day basis during
3 the construction process. In fact, it -- during a
4 weather event from the east, we had quite a plume that
5 went over the Charles Island bar to the west farther
6 than we ever had experienced it before. So it -- there
7 was quite a bit of dispersal during the weather events.

8 MR. HORNE: Thank you. One last
9 question. Is it possible for commercial shellfishing
10 to occur in the area that was disturbed by the 1991
11 Iroquois construction?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Up until the time in 1995
13 that I was a subcontractor to Tallmadge Brothers, the
14 scarred area from the Iroquois installation was not
15 cultivable. And we tried.

16 After 1995 there was some undesignated
17 ground to the south that some leases had come up for
18 bid that I had tried the bottom -- and this was after
19 '95, I can't be specific on -- but again you could
20 always tell when you got near the scar from the
21 pipeline, there was -- there just wasn't anything there
22 to speak of. And we had a lot of trouble fishing the
23 dredges on that outer portion. So to answer your
24 question, the simple answer is no.

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1 MR. HORNE: Thank you. I have no
2 further questions, Mr. Gelston.

3 CHAIRMAN GELSTON: Thank you. The Town
4 of Guilford. (No audible reply). The Town of
5 Branford?

6 MS. GILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 For the record, Elizabeth Gilson, the Town of Branford.
8 Good morning, Mr. Williams. I have a couple of
9 questions. Mr. Horne took many, so I'll try to be
10 efficient here.

11 You testified -- you've reviewed the
12 Islander East application, isn't that correct?

13 MR. WILLIAMS: The application I have,
14 yes.

15 MS. GILSON: And you testified regarding
16 the anchor scars and cables. I have a couple of
17 questions to follow up. How big is the anchor hole, do
18 you know?

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Well --

20 MR. TAIT: That depends upon the size of
21 the anchor?

22 MS. GILSON: Right, and that's why --
23 the -- well, their anchors specified --

24 A VOICE: (Indiscernible) -- testifying,

1 Mr. Tait?

2 MR. TAIT: No, I'm asking what size was
3 the anchor that you're talking about?

4 MS. GILSON: The anchor sizes are
5 specified, I believe, in the application.

6 MR. TAIT: Refresh my recollection.

7 MS. GILSON: I -- maybe the witness can
8 do better.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: The size of the anchors
10 specifically I can't say. I saw them, they're quite
11 large, however -- could you repeat the question again.

12 MS. GILSON: Well, I wanted to know how
13 big a hole was --

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, yeah --

15 MS. GILSON: -- suppose to be --

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I don't know how
17 big the holes are suppose to be, but I know based on --
18 well again on-site experience with my boat and also
19 based on the map that was provided at the meeting that
20 I attended, that the -- some of the holes were actually
21 quite large and in --

22 MR. TAIT: Can you quantify that?

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Quantify?

24 MR. TAIT: How many feet --

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1 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. With all due --

2 MR. TAIT: -- quite large means?

3 MR. WILLIAMS: With all due respect, to
4 put this in perspective, some of the anchor scarring
5 with the Iroquois project were actually over 500 feet
6 long.

7 MR. TAIT: And how wide -- or just a
8 drag scar --

9 MR. WILLIAMS: That was a drag scar.

10 MR. TAIT: How wide?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't know how wide
12 they would be, sir. I --

13 MR. TAIT: One foot, two foot, three
14 feet --

15 MR. WILLIAMS: No, no, no, no. They
16 would probably be in the magnitude of -- uh -- I would
17 -- I would say, as accurate as I can, probably seven to
18 eight feet that I could see on my sounder. It was --
19 some of them were fairly sharp and then up again fairly
20 rapidly, and --

21 MR. TAIT: How deep would they go?

22 MR. WILLIAMS: I saw on one of the lots
23 one that was six feet deep.

24 MR. TAIT: So six feet by eight feet by

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1 --

2 MR. WILLIAMS: By length.

3 MR. TAIT: By whatever length you --

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

5 MS. GILSON: Of course we know from the
6 last hearing that it's five foot four feet, but go on.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay --

8 MS. GILSON: But six feet --

9 MR. PHILIP ASHTON: When did you see
10 these scars?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Excuse me?

12 MR. ASHTON: When did you see these --
13 I'm sorry, I apologize for being late.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: That's okay. On the --
15 on the -- on the Iroquois project it was -- it would
16 have been the fall of '91 after they had finished --

17 MR. ASHTON: Right after the project was
18 complete?

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

20 MR. ASHTON: Okay.

21 MS. GILSON: And you testified about the
22 problems with the holes, but does that mean you would
23 avoid the holes by a certain distance or can you just
24 avoid fishing in the holes or dropping your dredge in

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1 around the holes themselves?

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, it -- from a
3 fishing standpoint -- there's a couple of things to
4 qualify my answer to that. It depends on the current
5 regime and the topography of the bottom and how you're
6 positioning the boat for dredging. But that being
7 said, you have to give them a little bit of a leeway.
8 If you know the run of them and where they are, you can
9 buoy them off and give them a little bit of respect
10 with the dredging process. So you have -- you have a
11 buffer zone near the holes that you also kind of don't
12 want to go near --

13 MS. GILSON: And --

14 MR. WILLIAMS: -- but you know, the zone
15 would probably be -- depending on the run and the
16 current regime, it could be as close as 10 feet --

17 MS. GILSON: On either side of the hole?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: On either side of the
19 hole. After 10 feet -- you know, 10 feet on the water
20 is nothing, I mean it's -- it's a hair width, so.

21 MS. GILSON: Okay. Do you know if the
22 anchor holes are going to be uniformly spaced in the
23 Islander East project?

24 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I -- I don't know

1 that, no.

2 MS. GILSON: Would it help if they were
3 evenly spaced in avoiding these holes?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Well -- if -- if the
5 holes were mapped with GPS coordinate geometry and, you
6 know, sonar mapping was furnished, yeah, it would be
7 helpful. That would be helpful to actually locate the
8 features on the bottom.

9 MS. GILSON: Okay. You testified
10 briefly about the undesignated beds in Branford. Could
11 you tell me why those beds are important?

12 MR. WILLIAMS: The entire region
13 produces shellfish. There are existing deeded pieces
14 of ground in Branford and leases south of the
15 jurisdiction line. The undesignated ground is -- what
16 it represents to a shell fisherman is areas that if you
17 employ traditional cultivation methods, you have a
18 tendency to increase the amount of recruitment in the
19 area. This is one of the fundamental practices that
20 we've done for so long in this industry. And a lot of
21 people think well we transplant clams or we just go in
22 and we harvest and we just take them out. Well part of
23 that cultivation process through reasons that kind of
24 escape me, I've seen it time and time again over the